



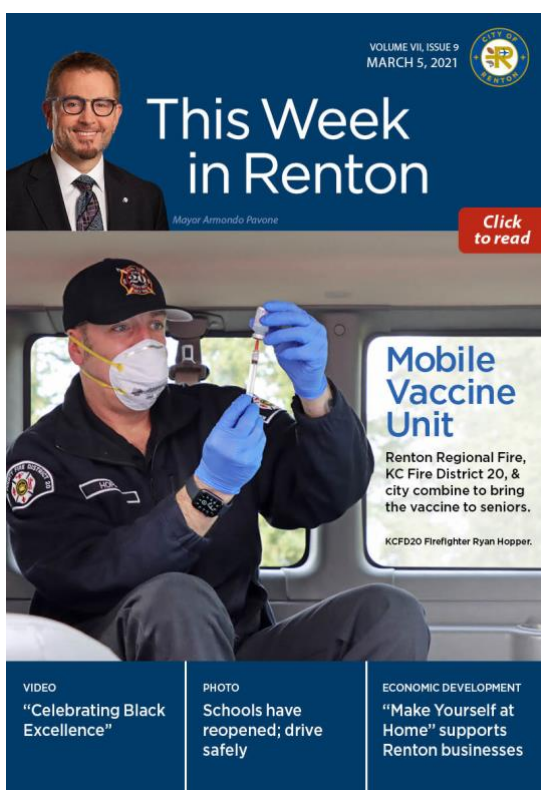
This Week in Renton

Send story ideas or comments to communications@rentonwa.gov.

Translation of the newsletter is available on the City of Renton's website. For additional translation services contact communications@rentonwa.gov.

If you're not already a subscriber, please [sign up and get up-to-date news and information](#) from City Hall.

Friday, March 5, 2021 | Vol. VI | Issue 9



VIDEO FEATURE

“Celebrating Black Excellence”

The Renton African American Pastoral Group, Renton Police Department, and the city combined to present [“Celebrating Black Excellence”](#) as part of our Black History Month celebration in February.

The program features songs, dance, poems, and interviews to celebrate and honor contributions of Black Americans.

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



On Wednesday, Renton schools [welcomed back the first phase of students](#) to in-person learning. With increased foot traffic around schools, drivers are reminded to slow down and be cautious and courteous to both students on foot and with buses as they travel their routes.

[School zone speed cameras](#) and speed beacons will be activated and Renton police will add extra patrols around the schools to ensure a safe return for the students.

COVER STORY



Renton Regional Fire Authority Battalion Chief Mike Proulx prepares to administer the COVID-19 vaccine.

Mobile Vaccination Unit brings vaccine to vulnerable seniors

In the push to get the COVID-19 vaccine to all eligible residents in Washington state, there is a concentrated effort to ensure our most vulnerable seniors receive their vaccinations. Although the state has developed specific eligibility guidelines and phases, it relies on public health districts to implement many distribution strategies.

Here in Renton, Public Health-Seattle & King County (PHSKC) asked Renton Regional Fire Authority (RRFA) and King County Fire District 20 (KCFD20) to help vaccinate our most at-risk seniors. The resulting collaboration created the Mobile Vaccination Unit (MVU) project. The MVU is staffed with rotating teams of firefighters who administer the vaccines. The unit concentrates on seniors living in adult family homes, senior living facilities, and affordable housing units who face mobility challenges.

The city's Community Services Recreation Division was asked to coordinate the effort by providing administrative and logistical support.

The Mobile Vaccination Unit project started the last week of February. It will continue as long as there is a need.

Here's how it works: Public Health-Seattle & King County identifies locations in Renton, Skyway and Fairwood areas. Each location is then contacted to coordinate a date and time for vaccinations to occur, with necessary paperwork completed prior to the visit. Based on this information, RRFA then acquires the appropriate amount of vaccines the morning that the vaccinations will occur.

The MVU arrives at the vaccination site about 30 minutes before the appointment time and verifies paperwork. Once inside, they meet individually with the residents, ask a few basic questions, and administer the vaccine. The crew, which includes a supervisor, then remains onsite to ensure no one has

an adverse reaction. This preplanning has allowed the MVU to administer up to 100 vaccines in a single day. The MVU is currently operating on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Their off days are used to complete paperwork and order vaccines.

As the expansion of vaccination eligibility rolls out, the priority of The Mobile Vaccination Unit will be to continue vaccinating our most vulnerable seniors.

I am eligible and I want to get the vaccination. How do I get a COVID-19 vaccination?

[Public Health-Seattle & King County](#) recommends the vaccination and states that it "is a safe, effective, and important way to prevent COVID-19, decrease illnesses, hospitalizations, and deaths due to COVID-19, and help to stop the current pandemic."

Both these county and state pages offer more information on the vaccine. The websites offer translations.

- [Getting vaccinated in King County](#) (Public Health-Seattle & King County)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine information](#) (Washington State Dept. of Health)
- [Search vaccine locations by county](#)

The county and state also offer hotline language interpretation or help if you can't use the [Phase Finder tool](#). For language interpretation, say your preferred language when connected.

1. WA State COVID-19 Assistance hotline: 1-800-525-0127 or 1-888-856-5816 (then press #), 6 a.m. – 10 p.m. Monday, 6 a.m. – 6 p.m. (Tuesday – Sunday)
2. King County COVID-19 Call Center: 206-477-3977, 8 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Am I eligible? How do I find my phase (priority tier) for vaccination?

- [Washington State Department of Health Vaccine Information](#)
- [State's "Find My Phase" Tool](#)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Small business support

The city's Economic Development Division has worked hard to [connect small businesses](#) in Renton to necessary resources.

Their latest effort is the "[Make Yourself at Home in Renton](#)" campaign, which invites both residents and visitors to explore each of our six unique neighborhoods.

- Benson Hill/Cascade: Uncover restaurants and watering holes amid parks, trails and forested escapes.
- Cedar River: Celebrate the great, active outdoors, along with unique eateries and experiences.
- City Center: Get to the core of Renton, from scenic shores to the best in retail therapy.
- East Plateau. Head to the junction of urban and rural, where local never looked (or tasted) so good.
- Highlands: Find festive global fare, specialty delights and destinations that will rock your world.
- Talbot/Valley: Revel in historic roots, fun and games, and acres of IKEA.

Business owners can [download and use a free toolkit](#) as part of the campaign. You will find photography, campaign logos, social media graphics and sample messages you can use to share the welcoming hometown spirit of the Renton neighborhoods.



April 13 is Small Business Day

Renton small business owners can access a free day of professional development at the [Main Street Now Conference](#) on Tuesday, April 13. The conference will feature live interactive sessions and roundtable discussions to help business owners succeed in this changing commerce landscape.

Free registration is available through March 22 to business owners in Main Street America districts by using code SB2180 at checkout. To see if your business qualifies, email mainstreet@savingplaces.org for further information.

IN THE COMMUNITY



Renton Roadshows debuts

Renton Municipal Arts Commission has debuted [Renton Roadshows](#), a series of pop-up performances around the city. The roadshows support Renton artists, who will be performing one- to two-hour sets at outdoor spaces.

Locations will follow theatre & performing guidelines in Phase 2 of the governor's [Healthy Washington Roadmap to Recovery](#). The first two Roadshows have been held at Sustainable Renton's free grocery store.



Community helps Sustainable Renton buy refrigerated truck

Speaking of [Sustainable Renton](#), they recently acquired a refrigerated truck through the efforts of individuals and organizations who raised \$7,000. This truck allows them to more effectively haul and store items for their grocery store.

Sustainable Renton regularly assists over 1000 people per month on Mondays from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the parking lot of [St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, 1700 Edmonds Ave. NE](#).



Free 2020 income tax help

United Way of King County offers [free income tax help](#) to individuals and families in King County through their Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. Every volunteer is IRS certified, and the service is entirely free and accessible to everyone, including ITIN holders. You can receive virtual help to complete your form, assistance with filing your form, and language assistance through a special 2-1-1 number. The program's services are available through April 18.

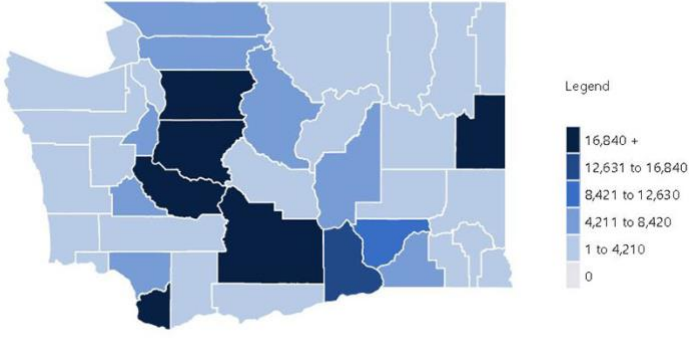
COVID-19



Vaccine Update

Public Health-Seattle & King County's [vaccination sites in Kent and Auburn](#) now accept those 65 and older.

The Food & Drug Administration authorized the emergency use of a third COVID-19 vaccine from Johnson & Johnson. Public Health-Seattle & King County has [five reasons to be excited about this new vaccine](#).



State to stay in Phase 2

The governor on Thursday announced regions are paused in Phase 2 of Healthy Washington phased reopening plan. This pause would last several weeks.

The state's eight regions have been in [Phase 2](#) since Feb. 14, which allows for more activities, including indoor dining at 25% capacity. What future phases will contain is being discussed by state leaders.

The state has seen a steady decrease in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations since the third wave peaked toward the end of 2020. More than [1.4 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines](#) have been administered in the state.

Remember, we can keep each other safe and healthy. Please continue to wear facial coverings, maintain social distancing, and practice good basic hygiene, like hand-washing and covering coughs and sneezes.



Take Metro to your vaccine appointment

When your [vaccination phase arrives](#), and you secure an appointment, [King County Metro and their partners offer](#) several transportation options to get you there.

Metro is making it [easier to apply for reduced fares and learn about transit](#) through their Virtual Neighborhood Pop-up events and online Reduced Fare Portal.

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



PopUp StoryWalk comes to Sunset Park

From March 8 to 27 [Sunset Neighborhood Park](#) will host [Bea's Bees](#) as a pop-up story walk. Begin your walk at the corner across from the Highlands Library. The book will be displayed one page at a time along the path. Author Katherine Pryor has filled Bea's Bees with fascinating facts about bumblebees and how to help preserve their environment. It encourages kids, and all of us, to help protect bees and other pollinators.

Renton Municipal Arts Commission and the City of Renton's Community Services Department sponsored the pop-up story walk.



Age-Friendly Talk: "Nutrition for Longevity"

Eating healthier has been shown to improve your nutritional status, energy, immunity, strength, digestive health and mood.

On Tuesday, March 9, 2-3 p.m., Era Living's Nutritional Services Director Courtney Riffe, RD CD CSG, will discuss common age-related changes that impact nutritional status. She will also explain how the benefits of a healthy diet can impact sustainable improvements to your daily routine.

Register for all 2021 Age-Friendly Talks at rentonwa.gov/register.



RIZP hosts resources event

[Renton Innovation Zone Partnership](#) will host their next free drive-through, multi-service event on Friday, March 12, from 3-5 p.m. at [Campbell Hill Elementary](#).

Baby supplies household items, food boxes and frozen family meals will be available. There will be information for housing, medical and health insurance, childcare, preschool consultation and developmental screening, WIC and First Steps. Signups are also available for free laptops and rental assistance referrals, ORCA LIFT cards, and free academic and career trade training.

Attendees are asked to remain in their vehicles.

CITY COUNCIL



Mayor Armondo Pavone (center front) is flanked by the 2021 Renton City Council. Ruth Pérez and Council President Randy Corman are seated in the front row. Standing: Valerie O'Halloran, Ed Prince, Council President Pro Tem Ryan McIrvine, Kim-Khánh Vñn and Angelina Benedetti

March 1, 2021 Meeting

- [Meeting](#) video
- [Committee of the Whole](#) video
- [Council Meeting Documents](#) (Approved Committee Reports, Motion Sheets, & Council Committee Meeting Calendar)

Feb. 22, 2021 Council Meeting

- [Approved Minutes](#)

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Renton City Council meets via Zoom. For information on viewing or participating in a council meeting, go to rentonwa.gov/council. Past meetings are available at rentonwa.gov/youtube.

CALENDAR

Mon.-Fri., 11:30 a.m., Senior Meals. Free, drive-thru sack lunch pick up. Limited quantities. Renton Senior Activity Center, [211 Burnett Ave. N.](#)

Mondays, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Sustainable Renton free drive-through grocery store at St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church, [1700 Edmonds Ave. NE](#)

Wednesdays, bi-weekly, 6 p.m., Renton Live! Online connection promoting business, nonprofits and activities within the greater Renton community. Find the link on the Renton Live [Facebook page](#).

March 5 and 12, 7 p.m. Virtual Nature & Neighbors. Ages 18+. Share conversation and discover nature in a fun and approachable way. Register at [rentonwa.gov/register](#) for [March 5](#) and [March 12](#). Additionally, search “Renton Outdoors” for upcoming in-person adventures around the city.

March 12, 3-5 p.m. Renton Innovation Zone Partnership. Free, [drive-through multi-service event](#) at [Campbell Hill Elementary](#).

Skyhawks Youth Sports Camps. Ages 4 to 14. These after-school programs, classes, and leagues have a modified curriculum and follow proven COVID-19 protocols. Registration is open for soccer and flag football camps and programs at [skyhawks.com](#). Renton locations include Kiwanis, Kenndale and Cedar River parks.

Library resources and events, ongoing. Filter by event, program, and location. [kcls.org](#)

Mark your calendars

April 24: Shred-a-thon & Prescription Take-Back

May 15: Recycle Event for metals and Styrofoam

We’ll have more information on these events in future newsletters.